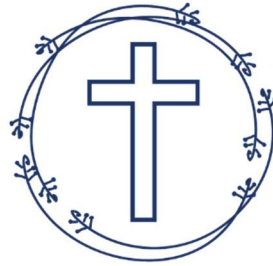


LORDSBRIDGE TEAM OF CHURCHES



The parishes of Barton, Caldecote with
Childerley, Comberton, Coton, Dry Drayton,
Great and Little Eversden, Hardwick,
Harlton, Haslingfield and Toft

LORDSBRIDGE TEAM COUNCIL

AGM – Wednesday 26th February 2025

Reports for 2024

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1. Acting Team Rector's Report

Since Rev'd David Newton took up his appointment on January 4th 2024 as Diocesan Director of Ordinands, we have been in vacancy and are continuing to go through the process to appoint a Team Rector.

I would like to thank everyone for working together to ensure that we continue ministry and mission in all the communities in the Lordsbridge Team, including Comberton and Toft, where David was Lead Minister.

In this report there is a paragraph from church communities about what was special in 2024 written by Lead Ministers and Church Wardens. There is also a report from our Team Administrator, Becca Herrick, and a report on youth and children's work collated by Sarah Rittman (LLM).

Across the Team there were opportunities to gather and share in 2024 at services (including on Zoom), at Team Chapter meetings (including the pub social at the Hare and Hounds), at Team Council, as well as through courses and groups that run across parishes. There was also a lively Cheese and Wine gathering for churchwardens at Haslingfield Vicarage and a meeting for Treasurers across the Team at the Cabin, chaired by the Rural Dean, Hugh McCurdy. A second meeting of Treasurers is booked for March 10th. I am keen to promote additional ways to meet and be together to support each other across parish boundaries, so please do share any ideas you have to facilitate this.

During 2024, the weekly Core Team meetings for the Lead Ministers, Team Support Minister, and Team Administrator continued (Clare Coates, Charles Fraser, Becca Herrick, Barnabas Leeke, Claire Robertson, and Priscilla Slusar). During these meetings we pray together and support each other in our ministry roles in the Team, as well as consider any administration and communication issues.

The parishes worked together to cover the ministry share for 2024, as well as to contribute to central administration costs. The vital work of WCCYM, youth ministry in our area, also receives a regular donation from the Team, kindly funded by donations from the parishes.

Congratulations to Revd Barnabas Leeke who was ordained priest at Ely Cathedral, Revd Chris Westgarth who completed her curacy and was licensed as associate priest and Lynne Saylor at Harlton who completed her training as an ALM preacher, this year.

Thank you to everyone in Lordsbridge for the way you work together and for the way the gospel is being lived out in our communities.

With love and blessings,

Claire Robertson

2. Parish Reports

Barton - It has been a busy but happy year during which we have strengthened our links with the Baptist Church joining them for services, prayer groups, and carol singing. St Peters continues to have strong links with Barton school and children and staff visit collective worship on Wednesdays. Our monthly Forest Church, started in early 2023, is thriving with numbers increasing.

We had a plan of events with the intention of drawing the community together, and raising funds. In June we had a church fete, the first since before Covid.

This was a great success. We then had a summer concert, harvest lunch and a very successful Christmas quiz. The year culminated with our Carol service which was supported by an adult choir and school choir which brought lots of families into church, so they were almost at capacity! Marvellous.

The major fabric undertaking was repair of the wooden block flooring at the back of the church. The PCC were delighted to accept the offer from John Boocock to coordinate this project with the assistance of David Hodge and a group of parish volunteers. Although many parishioners contributed to this endeavour, John and David's work resulted in a significant cost saving for which we are very grateful.

Caldecote - 2024 has been a successful year of engagement with the community through our popular Open Gardens fundraising events held at Childerley Hall, the Old Rectory Gardens, Longmeadow and Clare Farm, with our grateful thanks to the hosts who made this possible. We have seen continuing growth in our monthly Holy Communion services in the church and having consulted the wider community, we are now holding three services a month in the church. We also enjoyed our annual Harvest and Christmas Day services at Childerley Chapel, which were well attended by the local community. We have also worked hard to develop our environmental work, gaining a bronze award through the A Rocha Eco Church scheme, and developing our wildlife management plan with the help and support of the wider community. We are also working closely with local Charity, the Sitwell's Trust, to offer vouchers through our Hamper scheme.

Comberton - Our Sunday morning worship consists of an 8.00am BCP service twice monthly with a growing congregation and a 9.30am weekly service, either Holy Communion, Morning Worship or Informal Morning

Worship. We have also enjoyed several special services including Compline during Holy week, Christmas Carols with the Meridian School and Barnabas's work with the Village College. We had four joyous weddings and baptisms and sadly rather too many funerals. Our three homegroups continue to thrive and we have had successful coffee mornings, a Lent Soup café for charity, and a fete, as well as our annual Art Exhibition. Our regular ecumenical group, Oasis Teas, continues its vital work of outreach and support alongside Comberton's Baptist and Catholic communities. The Friends of St Mary's continues to raise funds successfully to support the fabric of the building and undertake projects such as the re-surfacing of the car park. The Churchyard nature recovery project is reaping benefits as it becomes more established. During the vacancy, despite the frustrations of the ongoing recruitment process, the parish family has remained positive and really pulled together to ensure that the work of the Church continues. However, in these difficult times, we are very challenged by the ongoing issue of how we finance our parish and its activities.

Coton - Services at Coton range from BCP Communion to All Age. Revd Barnabas has been developing the monthly Coton Praise All Age Service which has relocated to Coton Primary School for the past few months to forge stronger links with school families. Revd Claire, Revd Barnabas and Gill King also make fortnightly visits to lead collective worship at the school. At Christmas, Carols on the Green around a fire, the Carols Service and Christingle were well supported, with an adult choir and a children's choir singing at the Carol Service. Architects are currently working on a feasibility study to add a toilet and kitchen at St Peter's Church.

Just before Christmas Revd Dr Andrew Macintosh, former Dean of St John's College who had taken services at St Peter's, Coton for 16 years died. He was a beloved member of the Church Community and will be sadly missed.

Dry Drayton - Music is at the heart of our mission to the wider community, and we have been continuing to build on our strong musical tradition during 2024. Evensong is very popular at St Peter and St Paul's Dry Drayton, with a growing congregation from the village, the Lordsbridge Team, and further afield. Concerts and fundraising events have been well attended, with highlights including: 'Come and Sing Faure's Requiem in May, led once more by Edward Wickham, Director of Music at St Catherine's College, Cambridge; and the wonderful Pembroke College Choir 'Advent and Christmas Concert' in December. Forest Church has a small core of regular local families, and we have enjoyed exploring God's natural world together. We are continuing to strengthen our links with the local school with weekly visits by Rev'd Clare Coates or Canon Sue Wyatt for Collective Worship, and hosting school

concerts and services throughout the year at the church.

Great and Little Eversden - Great and Little Eversden continue to worship and function as best we can with few formal governance structures in place. Whilst we have a fabulous PCC Treasurer, Secretary and Gift Aid Officer it needs to be said that this is one man- Peter Morton. We have no Churchwardens and no obvious route out of this.

Remembrance Sunday continues to be well supported as was the traditional nativity with hundreds attending. Interestingly, this Christmas 1662 BCP communion after the all age proved more popular than ever. This is some food for thought.

We have installed swift boxes at Great and will do so as part of wider works at Little next year- swifts may once again scream through the villages.

Hardwick - 2024 was a difficult year for St Mary's. In March, we were deeply saddened by the sudden death of our dear friend Clare Bigg, who was an integral member of the Hardwick team. It was a huge shock and a big loss for her family, friends and the wider community. It coincided with the start of our building repairs project, which was undertaken by lime plaster specialist, Alistaire Lingard of AJ Restoration. We are very grateful to him for his hard work and dedication. Alastaire completed repair works to the ceiling throughout the Nave as well as other repair works to the East window, and above the Vestry door inside the Church. He has also completed external repairs to the porch and east end of the Church. My grateful thanks to the team here at St Mary's, including the late Clare Bigg. Clare was a wonderful, calming presence, especially when things were difficult, and I will always remember her saying: "We don't need to worry because God is with us. He's helped us before and He will help us again." And how right Clare was and is, and as a Church community we are very thankful to God who has watched over us and helped us through this time, which has had its challenges and times of great sadness. We are incredibly grateful for the continuing help and support of the wider community, which has meant so much to us. Over the last year I have seen how our church really matters to so many people. Our vision is to be a church for the whole community, and we are working hard to build and strengthen our friendships with the local community, supporting ventures such as the Hardwick Community Lunches, and running Summer Afternoons at the Cabin in August every year. We have had a very successful year fundraising for our building repairs project and have had great fun at these events making new friends, and strengthening our existing friendships.

Harlton - Harlton Church activities continued as usual during 2024, with a weekly service of either holy communion or morning prayer. We remain most grateful to those who preside at our services.

Harlton Church has been given on loan a fine grand piano. This has enabled our Vicar, Claire, to include musical reflections in services which have been greatly appreciated by the congregation.

Harlton's three organ scholars are performing excellently, and they gave an outstanding summer concert at the end of June 2024.

The marriages of three couples from outside the village took place in Harlton Church during 2024, reflecting the popularity of Harlton Church for the holding of weddings.

In 2024, Harlton PCC began to plan celebrations to commemorate the 650th anniversary of the building of Harlton church in 1375. The PCC is also considering plans for major repairs to the church roof in the coming months.

Haslingfield - All Saints' Church Haslingfield has retained a steady number within the congregation. Youth engagement is well led by our LLM and a young choir led by the vicar have been involved in special services. We focus on intergenerational worship with children's work integrated at all services.

The all age service held once a month has a different format with congregation seated around tables for discussion. The primary school holds services at the end of each school term which fills the church to capacity. Festival services are well attended by parishioners.

This year we have undergone repairs and redecoration in the Nave, restoration and protection of medieval glass in the clerestory windows and external work to rainwater goods. A death watch beetle infestation was discovered in an historic beam which involved the removal of part of the roof. This faced us with an unexpected expense and has been completed.

Toft - The Church in Toft remains on a fairly even keel, working in strong partnership with our Methodist friends. Sunday attendance is steady at between 15 and 20 weekly, but we all get older. Our winter Warm Hub has been an outstanding success, meeting every Monday for two hours from October to Easter with a steady attendance of mid-20s we have nearly 40 on the books. Our Lent and Advent courses have been well attended and enjoyed. As usual we have been totally involved in village events, serving on the committees that run them and on the Peoples Hall committee. Having Rev. Barnabas Leeke as our Curate has been a joy - he is supportive, inventive, caring and willing to turn his hand to anything. He has maintained and strengthened our links with Homemeadow. Fetes and Fayres whilst still well attended as social events have a reducing income year on year.

Zoom Church – between 12 and 20 of us continue to meet every Sunday morning to enjoy each other's company and fellowship. We have had input from various members of the Team, both clergy and lay and it is good to have welcomed new members during the year. Fifth Sunday services give us the opportunity to share many of the same resources as the main Team service and this is valued because it reminds us that we are part of a wider team. The service at the end of September gave us an interesting challenge as we had not done a Café Church style service before, but everyone thoroughly enjoyed our conversation, having had an opportunity to reflect on the questions in advance and we would be happy to do it again. Beforehand we had wondered whether everyone would be able to cope with the challenge but everyone had voted to give it a go and they did so with enthusiasm. Sadly this year we have experienced some deaths in our Church family, but it has been lovely to see our little congregation support each other. I would like to thank everyone who contributes to the service, either as leader, reader, intercessor or host; it has been wonderful to see people grow in confidence.

3. Administration

I continue to work 15 hours a week as the Team Administrator, providing administrative support over a range of areas across the Team. I mostly work from home, although can sometimes be found at the Cabin in Hardwick, or on travels across the Team area too. 2024 has been a busy year administratively. Since the Team Rector vacancy began, I have been supporting Rev'd Claire in her role as Acting Team Rector and taken on extra work, such as the Team ministry share calculations.

iKnow Church (iKC) and the Life Events Diary continue to be used across the Team to aid communication and manage baptisms, weddings and funerals. Our Lordsbridge website, Facebook and Instagram pages are kept up to date by Rev'd Clare and I. I have also taken over the management of several of the parish websites, alongside all the 'A Church Near You' pages. If there's anything you'd like to see on our websites, or in our monthly newsletter, please do let me know.

Alongside the above, I do the administration for weddings and funerals across the team. There were 12 weddings in the team last year, and approximately 85 funerals/interments. In addition, I continue to support the Acting Team Rector and Team Vicars with day-to-day administration, including the team rota and service sheets.

Becca Herrick, Team Administrator

Safeguarding

I have continued to support the wonderful Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSOs) across the Team with their roles, carrying out DBS checks and encouraging people to complete safeguarding training. We are mostly on top of people's training and checks across the Team, with grateful thanks to the PSOs. The CofE Hub and Dashboards has made keeping on top of these things much easier over the past year. I have also run some in-person safeguarding training for those who have needed this.

There were no safeguarding incidents across the Team in 2024.

Becca Herrick, Team Administrator

4. Youth Activities

As a Team we support the work of WCCYM (West Cambridge Christian Youth Ministries) and partner with them in the discipleship of our young people. We do this financially, as well as through volunteer support of their monthly Youth Service, Thirst. The Lordsbridge Team provides a meal once or twice a year and helps to serve it. This is great fun and an opportunity to see the youth work in person. Do let Sarah Rittman know if you would like to be involved in this service. We also support the RPE (Religion, Philosophy and Ethics) days run in Comberton Village College, through volunteers working with Y10 and Y11. We encourage any young people we are in contact with to engage with what WCCYM offers. In 2024 around around 6 people continue to be engaged in WCCYM provision, including the Christian Union on Friday lunchtimes, the monthly Thirst Youth service and the Christmas and Summer parties. One young person regularly plays in the Thirst worship band. WCCYM also supported in Confirmation and Baptism preparation for local young people.

Nigel Taylor, part of the congregation in Dry Drayton continues to be the Chair of Trustees of WCCYM, and Sarah Rittman, LLM (Licenced Lay Minister for children and families) and part of the congregation in Haslingfield, has continues to be on the executive committee, as a Lordsbridge representative. Sarah also continues to run Café Saintz on a monthly basis for young people in Haslingfield. The group identity of these young people has made it easier for them to engage and thrive in the WCCYM provision mentioned above.

Sarah Rittman

5. Children and Families' Report

Churches in the Lordsbridge Team have creative and innovative ways of engaging with children and families in their villages. Provision across the team depends on the individual parish (see parish reports). Parishes have very good relationships with church and non-church schools in their villages. Vicars and lay ministers do assemblies in school and end of term celebrations in church such as Christmas and Easter. School engagement has led to children from schools singing in special services such as Carol Services in 2024 and the West Cambridge combined church service at Comberton Leisure.

All Age services take place across the team in different forms, such as breakfast and craft followed by an All Age Service, or All Age worship with crafts and discussion around tables. There are Forest Churches in four villages as fresh expressions in the afternoons, involving short, engaging worship in creation. This had led to increased baptisms and engagement in the worshipping communities. One village also has a fresh expression of a monthly Café church. Another church partners with the local Methodist Church to have half termly themed 'trails' between the two churches on themes such as 'Getting Ready for Easter' during Lent. Christmas is a time of great engagement with local children and families, for example during church nativity and Christingle services.

Sarah Rittman

6. Financial Report

Lordsbridge Team Council

Financial Statement for the year ending 31 December 2024

Notes to the accounts

The accounts have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis with the exception of one payment not made at the year end which relates to work done during the financial year so has been included within these accounts.

The Team has one current account with CAF Bank and no deposit accounts or investments

CAF Bank
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent ME19 4TA

Signatories: Revd. Claire Robertson, Sue Chase, Sue Nelms, Ann Mitchell

All expenditure requires dual authorisation.

The Independent Examiner is

Sue Chase
Lordsbridge Team Treasurer
February 2025

Lordsbridge Team Ministry

Income & Expenditure at 31 December 2024

Team Mission & Ministry

<i>Opening balance at 1 January 2024</i>		743
Receipts		
Annual Contribution from PCCs	350	
Team Service Collections	209	
Marriage Preparation (2025)		
Bank interest	40	
Miscellaneous		
		<hr/>
		599
Payments		
Team Council Costs		
Clergy & Service Expenses	68	
Team Zoom subscription	156	
Ecumenical Service	250	
Marriage Preparation	76	
Miscellaneous	95	
		<hr/>
		644
Net Receipts / (Payments)		(46)
Closing balance at 31 December 24		<u>697</u>

Lordsbridge Contingency Fund

<i>Opening balance at 1 January 2024</i>		7,480
Receipts		
Ministry Share Rebate	4,398	
		<hr/>
		4,398
Payments		
Transfer to Administration (20%)	880	
Distribution to PCCs (50%)	2,199	
		<hr/>
		3,079
Net Receipts / (Payments)		1,320
Closing balance at 31 December 24		<u>8,799</u>

Administration

Opening balance at 1 January 2024 5,512

Receipts

PCC contributions	10,737	
Transfer from Contingency Fund	880	
		<u>11,617</u>

Payments

Operating costs	241	
Iknowchurch subscription	468	
Insurance	197	
Website & Domain	16	
Finance support	901	
Payroll - Administrator	9,592	
Recruitment advert	1,099	
		<u>12,513</u>

Net receipts / (payments) (896)

Closing balance at 31 December 24 4,616

Gateways

Opening balance at 1 January 2024 1,565

Receipts**Payments**

Net receipts / (payments) 0

Closing balance at 31 December 24 1,565

Youth Work

Opening balance at 1 January 2024 2,101

Receipts

PCC contributions	3,600	
		<u>3,600</u>

Payments

WCCYM contribution	3,950	
Additional Youth work		
		<u>3,950</u>

Net receipts / (payments) (350)

Closing balance at 31 December 24 1,751

Account Balances reconciliation

Opening balances 1 January 2024

Cash & Cheques	-
CAF current account	17,400

Fund Receipts / (Payments)

Team Mission & Ministry	(46)
Lordsbridge Contingency	1,320
Administration	(896)
Gateways	0
Youth Work	(350)
Net movement in Funds	<u>28</u>

Closing Balances

Accountancy fees	(450)
CAF current account	<u>17,878</u>

Funds Held at 31 December 24

17,428